

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# MADRAS

## MUSINGS

INSIDE

- Promoting tourism
- Of dangerous roads...
- ... & vanishing pavements
- Saving coastal heritage
- G.O.M. of Indian Cricket

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### Ring-A-Ring-A-Pulse-Rate

IUC, WLL, GSM, CDMA, 'basic', 'cellular' – they forgot "incomprehensions" and "resultant hyperventilation".

There was a time when the mighty telecom industry was represented, at least for the general mass of humanity, by this standard li'l old black instrument.

Things have sure changed since those days. Given the level of techno savvy, memory skills and infinite capacity for constant mental up-dating now required, those of us who belong to the 'Order of Those-Who-Don't-Get-It' are forced to live with total humiliation. Well-meaning souls try hard to explain these concepts to us. But they soon give up, defeated by the open mouth and blank stare. Unfortunately for the W-m-s, civilised behaviour frowns upon acts of violence against those who haven't been provided with the required number of little grey cells.

Frankly, methinks there's too much learning in the air.

As for cost involved... spare a thought for those who are blessed with cellphone-happy, telephone-addicted teenagers.

We've heard of wise people whose words are 'worth their weight in gold'. Today, that could mean a simple 'hi', for even that comes with a hefty price tag...especially if you are a landline talking to a cell phone. This could change the very pattern of greeting, from a friendly 'hello' to a brusque 'Okay, how much is this going to cost me?'

Smoke signals, anyone?

Ranjitha Ashok

**Biswajit is on holiday.  
He will resume his cartoon  
in our next issue.**

## Sixth best, but best big State

(By A Special Correspondent)

Tamil Nadu is the sixth best State in the country to live – and work in – but is the best among the big States – the ten most populous States, which account for 84 per cent of the country's population and 75 per cent of its GDP. The top five States according to the *India Today-Indicus Analytics* survey of 19 States based on 1991 and 2001 statistics – ruling out several of the newly created States and, with data in all categories short, Pondicherry and the northeastern states – were Goa, Delhi, Punjab, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh.

Elsewhere in the South, Karnataka was ranked 10th and Andhra Pradesh 12th. But significant is the survey's assessment that the fastest mover in the 1990s (1991-2001) has been Andhra Pradesh by far. Tamil Nadu has not done anywhere near as well.

The survey was based on ten parameters and Tamil Nadu fares as follows on each of these

parameters (1991 rank in brackets):

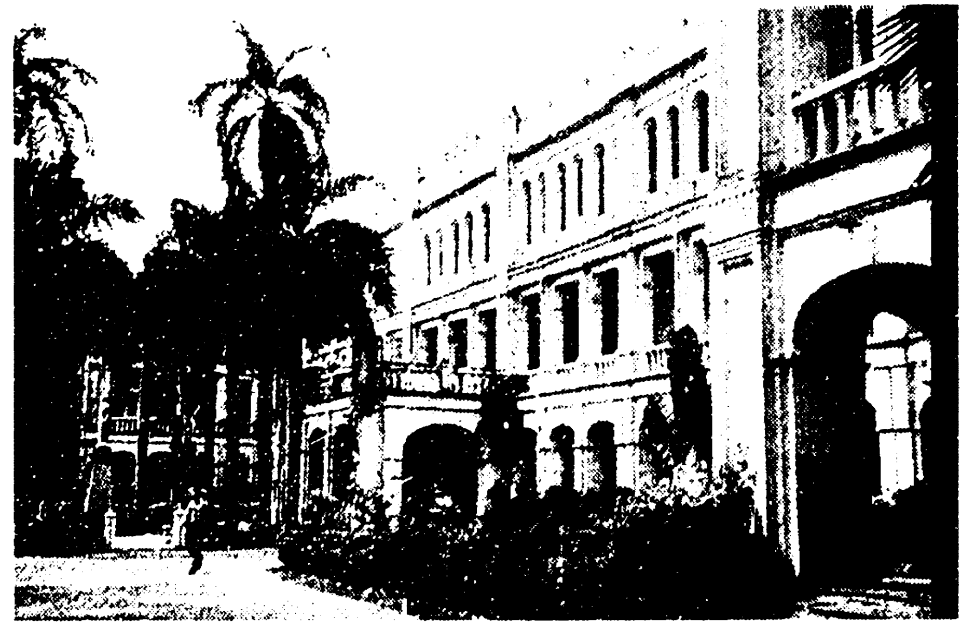
*Prosperity and Budget:* Tamil Nadu 7th (8), and second to Maharashtra among the big States, has done much better than Karnataka and Andhra who are rated 8th and 10th but have dropped over the decade, from 5th and 7th respectively.

(Continued on Page 6)

## Loyola – the country's best non-technical college

(By A Special Correspondent)

One of the reasons why Chennai was selected as one of the country's best cities to live in – and the best metro – (MM, May 16th) was the excellence of its educational institutions. Confirmation of that excellence comes from the most recent *India Today-Gallup* survey and several Chennai colleges are amongst the best in the country in the Arts, Science,



The main block of a college that since 1925 has maintained the highest standards of excellence.

Commerce, Engineering, Medicine and Law. The best college in the country offering Arts, Science and Commerce, judged informally by this writer on the basis of the survey, would be Chennai's Loyola College, which edges out St. Xavier's, Mumbai. But not far behind are Madras Christian College and our own Presidency College – last year's leader. No other city

has a comparable record. The official record for Chennai's colleges according to the survey is as follows:

**Arts:** Loyola is the country's best Arts College, with MCC 5th and Presidency 8th. Ranked behind this trio in fourth and fifth positions in Chennai are Queen Mary's College and Stella Maris.

**Science:** Madras Christian College is the leader, with Presidency 3rd and Loyola 4th. Ranked 4th and 5th in Chennai are Stella Maris and Ethiraj.

**Commerce:** Loyola is 4th, Presidency 7th, MCC 8th and Stella Maris 10th. In fifth place in the city is Ethiraj.

**Medicine:** Madras Medical College is 6th, in a list which includes Christian Medical College, Vellore, at 2nd, and JIPMER, Pondicherry, at 4th.

**Engineering:** The IITs sweep the board here, with Chennai's in 4th position. Anna University is ranked 10th and the REC Tiruchirappalli 9th.

**Law:** The Faculty of Law, University of Madras (presumably Law College), tied for 9th.

Commenting on the various top-ranking colleges, *India Today* notes:

**Loyola:** Quality of student care, academic input and cur-

## Appeals to PMG, readers

Dear Postmaster-General,

**1** We have been receiving calls from several on our mailing list that they have not been receiving their copies of *Madras Musings*. Despite being a volunteer organisation with no staff, we have checked our mailing list, verified that the names and addresses as mentioned by these readers are on the list, we have seen the addresses pasted, the addressed parcels sorted into postbags zonewise, and delivered to the post office. After that, Dear Sir, it's in your hands. Could you please request your staff to take the trouble to deliver safely a journal that several volunteers have taken the trouble to produce and which several not only want to read but are quite upset when they don't receive it.

**2** We have been receiving back several copies of the journal, some with the notation 'Left' and some with no notation at all. We hope those who have 'left' are really no longer at the address; it does seem strange that so many are there one week and have 'left' two weeks later. As for those with no notation, why have they been returned?

**3** Could you please inform us whom we should contact in your Department who would look

into such complaints about non-receipt of journals?

Dear Readers,

Our present mailing list comprises ALL those with Chennai addresses, ALL those who have made donations, ALL those on sponsors' lists and several VIPs.

The only persons eliminated from the list are those with addresses beyond Greater Chennai and who have not made a donation and those who have 'left' according to the postal advice. We have also stopped sending extra copies in the case of those getting more than one copy.

If you are one of those readers referred to in Para 1 and you are not receiving your copy, please take it up with your postman. Also, please do not try to reach us by telephone; instead, please send us information about non-receipt on a postcard together with your correct address to enable us to check whether we have got the address correct and, possibly, find a way to take the matter up with the postal authorities.

— The Editor

(Continued on Page 8)

## Plans to make Tamil Nadu a major tourist destination

Tamil Nadu tourism, *The Man From Madras Musings* hears, is about to follow the trail blazed by Kerala and tracked by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, getting underway a major marketing and promotional campaign. MMM welcomes the thought but hopes the Tamil Nadu tourism authorities get their priorities right. Like deciding that there is a foreign tourist, an NRI tourist, a domestic tourist and a pilgrim tourist – and each of their interests is different and, therefore, each has to be targeted specifically. In fact, an uncomfortable decision or two will have to be made, deciding on who should be prioritised and on whom top promotional dollar should be spent. And that decision should be based on maximum returns for money spent in terms of earnings and not just numbers welcomed.

MMM draws the attention of the Tamil Nadu authorities to the need for such prioritisation because of the kind of tourist circuits that MMM hears are being drawn up by these authorities. Certainly there are local compulsions to look at the *Navagraha Kshetras* and the *Aampada Veedu*, but while these help Government tourism bottomlines, they are hardly likely to contribute to tourism income in the State. On the other hand, two major circuits are being planned which would appear to hold promise. One is Chennai-Mahabalipuram-Pondicherry-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai-Kanchipuram-Chennai and the other is Madurai-Rameswaram-Kanniyakumari-Cochin-Thekkadi-Madurai. By and large, both the circuits could be sold to the foreign tourists, the NRI and the affluent up-country Indian holiday-maker provided we get a focus on what is important in each area and ensure the facilities necessary to make each destination comfortable and easy to take in. It also needs the elimination in many of these destinations. To give any of the development work to the PWD at these destinations is to ensure standard facilities for the international-class tourist. After all, what is the expertise the PWD has in such fields as landscaping and hotel or restaurant building of international class? Or, for that matter, what expertise do organisations like HUDCO have in such fields?

that has been the history of Tamil Nadu Tourism in recent years – explaining why little progress has been made in this field despite the State having far more to offer the visitor from abroad and elsewhere in India than its neighbours. Will we ever see a Tourism Commissioner staying put long enough to implement even one major plan?

### Cultural tourism

When are we ever going to learn the lessons Sri Lanka learnt the hard way to make its tourist industry a success? *The Man From Madras Musings* has referred to this before and does so again, following the recent visit to Chennai of Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne, Head of the Department of Archaeology, University of Peradeniya, the Island's mother university.

Sri Lanka, with its historic capitals of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Dambulla and Kandy and their heritage-rich environs, did in the days it was Ceylon try to sell this cultural circuit to tourists from abroad. But eventually it found that success only came when, it re-oriented itself to sun, sea and tourism. But now, not only is the world a changing place where more and more are interested in heritage but Sri Lanka is beginning to attract in large numbers the Asian, particularly the Indian, tourist to whom beaches mean little but sight-seeing while religious and royal overtones means much. And so Sri Lanka, while not slowing down on hard-selling beach tourism, is beginning once again to focus on cultural tourism. And in the forefront of promoting cultural tourism is Prof. Seneviratne,

who sees his field, archaeology, as very much part of this re-orientation.

Under a \$30 million UNESCO project, the Cultural Triangle will be preserved and restored as a World Heritage Site even as archaeological excavations continue side by side. And in this teaming of two disciplines, Prof. Seneviratne sees great opportunities. Four of the Island's universities offer archaeological degrees – and these have been made strongly practical oriented. These university archaeological departments and their fellow history departments have been allotted six historic sites in the Cultural Triangle. Here they help with the restoration and the excavation as well as with the documentation. The fifty students who graduate every year find employment not only in the massive Cultural Triangle project in the archaeological aspects of the work but also in the tourism industry. As the Cultural Triangle becomes an important destination for heritage-lovers, the guides and tour-operators will no longer be the storytellers of the past but qualified archaeologists from among those the four universities

alien to most of us in Tamil Nadu, MMM has sadly come to the conclusion.

Not only are the toilets here in a sorry state once again – not merely dirty but also damaged and in some cases non-functional – but were without water, during one stop. 'No current' was the explanation, but hotels and motels are not expected to make such excuses to customers if they consider themselves tourist halts. And to make matters worse, several women were having a time of it getting to the bathroom, with a band of monkeys standing sentinel in front of the toilets' only door and baring their teeth at anyone trying to get past them. Indeed, over two dozen monkeys appear to have made the motel their home and are ensuring that the pit-stop here is no longer a pleasant one, hopping on cars and scratching them, leaping through windows left open by the unwary and scampering away with anything might be considered food, and frightening the women and children who can't but get near even the restricted space.

Maybe it's time to get someone from like the Animal Welfare

Board to keep such spaces free of monkeys and other strays; they certainly don't help promote happy travelling, whatever the animal lovers may say. The alternative is to shoot the lot – but that will undoubtedly create an uproar, even if it makes Ulundurpet more user-friendly.

Governor P.S. Ramamochari Rao, who had released the book, took it upon himself to respond and in his response, during which he minced no words, he let no one forget that he was a former Director General of Police who had fought the War Groups. To Ram's apprehensions about POTA, he pointed out that any legislation could be misused, but that was no reason to throw out the baby with the bathwater. Blaming the Press for glorifying terrorists, the Governor felt that this was because those 'armchair journalists' and those in "the groves of academy" did not know the reality in the field. If only they were prepared to get their feet wet, they'd realise the abuses perpetrated by terrorists which leads annually to more policemen being killed than military personnel.

Unfortunately Ram did not get the opportunity to respond, but B.S. Raghavan poured oil on troubled waters like the good Civilian that he was: Good governance, he suggested, was the antidote for terrorism – and such governance would include trying to understand the causes that drove terrorists to the positions they took – while at the same time insisting that the rule of law be observed by everyone strictly according to the book. Wish that could ever happen! Unfortunately, as Ram himself has undoubtedly discovered over the years, in today's world there's little chance of success in negotiation – and, as a consequence, almost a compulsion to rely on the ways of a totally frustrated security force.

—MMM

essential. But do they give all they promise in the necessary quality and quantity? That's something only time will tell. Meanwhile, Heritage Eldercare Services in Chennai, the forerunner of Heritage Hospitals, can be contacted at 24935374 and 98412-89345.

### Frank speaking

Some frank speaking made a recent book release function something more than the usual formality – and *The Man From Madras Musings* felt the occasion was the better for it, though a few in the audience did feel, as conservative Tamils generally tend to feel, such a forum was not the place for the exchange of ideas in such a frank manner.

The occasion was the release of the proceedings of a national seminar on 'Responding to Terrorism: Dilemmas of Democratic and Developing Societies' organised last November by the Satyamurti Centre for Democratic Studies, the Madras Management Association and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. MMM had taken note of the proceedings in his column of December 1, 2002 and had, at the time, pointed out the overwhelming numbers representing Law and Order amongst the speakers and the comparatively few civil liberties' activists and neutralists or third-view-holders. This preponderance of security views was pointed out by N. Ram, Editor, *Frontline*, when receiving the first copy.

There are insufficient wardens doing the rounds inside the Park. We saw and also checked a few miscreants throwing pebbles and stones at animals.

The staff in the Park should create an environment of warmth and friendliness inside the Park.

Sultan Ahmed Ismail  
Plot 98, Baaz Nagar  
3/621, East Coast Road  
Palavakkam  
Chennai 600 041.

### Palliakarnai musings

It was around 7.00 a.m. and I was on my mobile near Palliakarnai, heading towards Tambaram. I stopped, took out my binoculars and began to see the beautiful

scene. Believe me, the place is quiet. The slightest unusual noise – and you can hear the fluttering of wings of birds, clearly indicating that the birds are disturbed even by a small noise.

With plenty of vegetation around small ponds and miniature islands in the waterbodies, it is now clear why the birds choose this place.

What a variety of winged wanderers there are here. Egrets, sharp beaked tall white-men in military action, sparrows that have deserted Chennai, tall brown birds and many others. All in their own world, with no care.

They have their own discipline too. They all fly in a single line, take a curve exactly at a particular place, bend at the same angle, and settle at the same place.

As I left, I found a foreign visitor picking an insect sitting on top of a Velacherry buffalo. Obviously, there's something for everyone at Palliakaranai.

## OUR READERS WRITE



### A noisy zoo

A recent visit to the Arignar Anna Zoological Park was an eye-opener. To our surprise there was a huge crowd at the counter, even though it was a week-day. But only one counter was functioning. When our turn came, I asked the person at the counter whether it would not be wise to have extra counters as visitors appeared to be coming in large numbers. Without batting an eyelid, his answer was, "Go and report the matter in the office". After such a warm welcome, we entered the premises.

The authorities deserve appreciation for trying to do their best to maintain a clean Zoo. We were not disappointed, even though some cages were empty. The aquarium needs a re-look, because some fish were in containers that did not belong to them.

But what hurt us most was the callous disregard shown by the people authorised to drive two- and four-wheelers in the campus. The 'Safari Vehicles' continuously use the horn as they drive madly amidst the pedestrians who try to jump out of their way. Some "people in uniform" driving two-wheelers also appeared to have permission to create panic among the humans and animals with their blasting horns. One such officer drove so fast, honking all the while, that we thought there was an emergency in the Park. We were surprised to see him five minutes later sitting and chatting with friends over a cup of tea in the restaurant.

There are insufficient wardens doing the rounds inside the Park. We saw and also checked a few miscreants throwing pebbles and stones at animals.

The staff in the Park should create an environment of warmth and friendliness inside the Park.

S.R. Krishnamurthy  
4B, Abhinaya Apartments  
14, I Avenue, Shastri Nagar  
Adyar, Chennai 600 020.

Still lots to do

Though somewhat hard to believe, the news (MM, May 16th) that Chennai is the best Metro to live in and the second best among Indian cities, should gladden the hearts of Chennaiites. Nevertheless, it is a matter of concern that the city seems to have lost its pre-eminence in many aspects. Hence, there is no room for undue pride or complacency unless and until there is improvement in the areas of education, housing, drinking water facilities, maintenance of roads and waterways, traffic without hazards, preservation of ancient monuments and heritage landmarks. Most importantly, the present law and order situation is not what it should be. Increasing incidences of robberies, burglaries, decoities, rapes and murders have instilled a sense of fear and insecurity in the minds of residents, especially womenfolk. Under the circumstances, it is ridiculous to hail the city as 'Singara Chennai' or a

### Palliakarnai musings

garden of peace'. The State Government and the Corporation have a lot to do to make the city deserve the honour conferred on it now.

M.R. Pillai  
H-6/5, Central Avenue  
Korattur  
Chennai 600 080.

### Remember Kalki

The base of the historic lighthouse at Kodikkarai (Point Calimere) seen in MM, May 16th, takes us back to Kalki's *Pommiyan Selvan* where this lighthouse is often mentioned as a scene of much activity. It would appear that it was built by Parantaka I (father of Sundara Chola, who was Parantaka II) during the 10th Century. Kalki stated that this was very useful for the ships as the shores were very shallow. There is a Siva temple, the deity being called 'Kuzhagar', who was sung of by Sundaramurthy Nayanar in a lament about the lonely condition of the Lord.

This was sung about 1200 years ago, i.e. 200 years before Raja Raja Chola, and even now the temple is stated to be very lonely, without much habitation around. Kalki, though he used his imagination when writing of his historical characters, barring the main ones, did extensive research on the history of the dynasties so that his historical novels always sound authentic.

T.M. Sundarraman  
No.19, Nallappan Street  
Mylapore  
Chennai 600 004.

### Talking of names – I

Why *Kanji Thotti* (MM, April 16th)? I was told there was a famine in Madras in the early 20s. An appeal was made to the public to bring *Kanji* strained from their rice and pour it into a vat built for this purpose at this site. Many charitable organisations also

## Those elusive contributions

I have been carefully following your recent statements with regard to the hardships faced by you in running *Madras Musings* and your request to readers to contribute a minimum Rs. 100 per annum. I have also seen the lists of respondent to your appeal.

I think that you have taken a calculated risk by asking readers to financially support the journal and also by stating that the journal would be stopped to those who do not contribute. If you were to earnestly implement this plan, I am afraid the circulation of *Madras Musings* would come down by more than 70 per cent. This certainly is not a reflection on the quality of the journal or its relevance and importance. It is more a reflection on the state of mind and priorities of the general public and particularly of educated and affluent persons, many of whom are your readers.

I am sure that almost one hundred per cent of the readers of *Madras Musings* belong to the middle and upper income group.

Further, almost all of them would be well-employed or retired from good positions, they would be people who have travelled abroad several times and who would describe themselves as educated and qualified. Spending of Rs. 100 a year would not make any difference to their income level or to their life style. Yet, while many of them have been enthusiastically receiving *Madras Musings* for the last several years free, most of them will not take the trouble to make a donation but would not mind continuing to receive the journal.

As the Editor of *Nandini Voice For The Deprived*, a journal largely distributed free all over the country, I can tell you that more than 99 per cent of Indians who are comfortably off would spend their money only if they got some material benefits and advantages which could be in the form of more income or entertainment or better prospects in life for themselves or their kith and kin. Most of them would spend readily on religious

causes and donate to temples, largely because they expect that such donations would benefit them elsewhere. Not providing Rs. 100 support to get *Madras Musings* is only due to the fact that such an expenditure would not give them any material benefits or entertainment value.

My suggestion is to keep on appealing to your readers to support the journal, but do not stop the free issues. On the other hand, persuade your sponsors to increase their contribution a little, which would not affect them in any way, considering their turnover. I appeal to these worthy organisations to consider doing this.

*Madras Musings* has a great role to play in our society and should expand and not contract, and it should reach as many people as possible, irrespective of whether they could support the causes the journal espouses or not.

N.S. Venkataraman  
M-60/1, IV Cross Street  
Besant Nagar  
Chennai 600 090.

Janaki Krishnan  
2, MGR Road  
Kalakshetra Colony  
Besant Nagar  
Chennai 600 090.

Talking of names – II

The meaning of 'Kanji Thotti' (MM, April 16th) is 'vat of gruel', meant for patients, but a tank constructed, usually in street corners, to feed four-legged animals, generally free of cost.

B. Sathyanarayanan  
32, Gangaianman Koil  
South Ist Street  
Choolaimedu, Chennai 600 094.

Talking of names – III

Reference the two explanations about Bunder (MM, May 16th), it was an old Parsi gentleman who told me that *Bandar* in Hindi meant 'Shop' and there were many shops there, presumably pavement shops, hawking goods from shops.

N. Dharmeswaran  
21, Kumanar Nagar  
Guduvanchery.

Talking of names – IV

Thachi Arunachala Mudali Street in Mylapore is known as 'Rottikaran Theru'. Another street in the same area is called 'Arisikaran Street'. How these streets got their names is a mystery for there is no bakery in 'Rottikaran Theru' nor has anyone heard of rice merchant living in 'Arisikaran Street', a typical brahmin colony.

P.A. Ranganathan  
16, Vedachala Garden  
Mandaveli Street  
Chennai 600 028.

Augustine Roy Rozario  
'Little Flower Villa'  
4, Kamaraj Street  
Cholan Nagar  
Pattabiram  
Chennai 600 072.

# Roads that spell DANGER

(By A Special Correspondent)

Chennai, even at the best of times, is infamous for its irrational speed breakers and roads full of potholes. In addition, Chennai has been witnessing growth at the speed of

thought. To add to this, the lack of maintenance of arterial roads and their savage assault in the name of repairs has made roads virtual death traps. The various arms of the government,

comprising the Electricity Board, BSNL, Metrowater and newer sectors, like the optical fibre companies, seem to be united in this 'mission'.

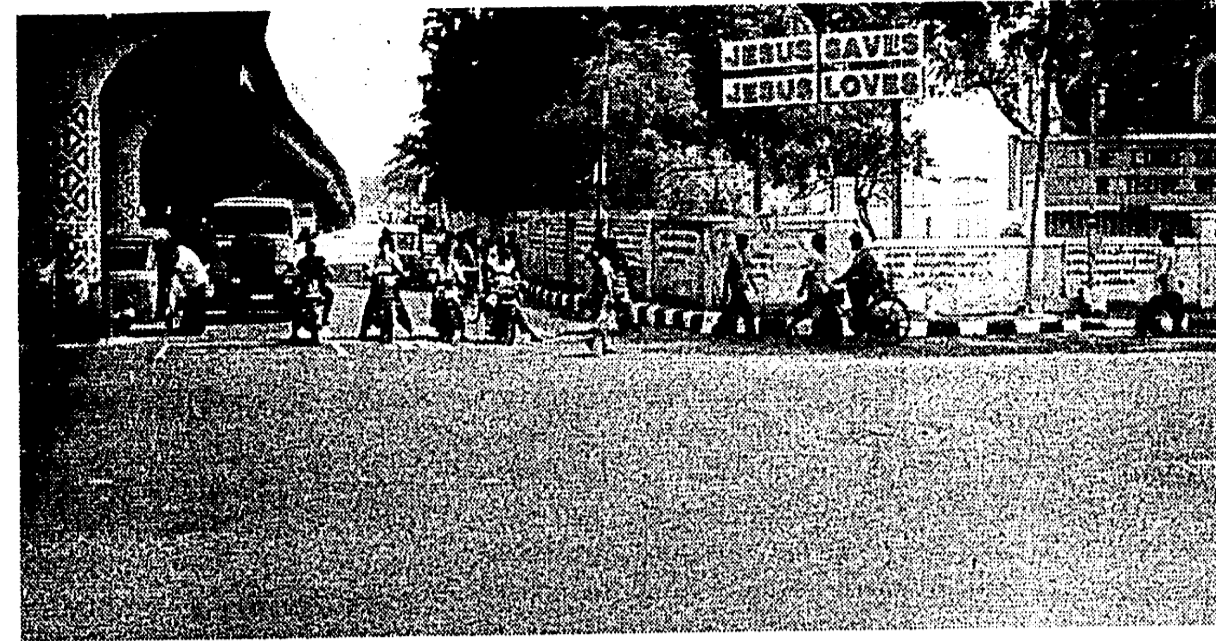
The results are not hard to see. Every day we witness horrific accidents. The figures from the Institute of Road Transport Education show that Chennai has one of the highest accident rates in the country. We virtually have a death every minute and this is rising because of fast-deteriorating road conditions and the increasing road traffic. Bad roads force vehicles to manoeuvre sharply to avoid the obstacle courses on roads, and this, combined with insufficient lighting and poor road sense, leads to increase in the number of accidents on our roads.

The pedestrians, who are the biggest class of road users, are most vulnerable. Whenever the roads are damaged or worked upon, the pedestrian is forced to compete with the moving traffic for road space. The Chennai city police reported 786 pedestrian deaths in 2000!

One of the other major consequences of such roads is damaged vehicles and increased fuel consumption. Bad roads can lead to health problems like hypertension, spondylitis and migraines apart from other problems associated with increased air pollution, which can lead to bronchial diseases. Increase in travel time and the hindrance to emergency vehicles are also due to the unwarranted congestion on the city's roads.

CAG addressed a memorandum to the Minister for Municipal Administration, the Commissioner of the Chennai Corporation, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor asking them to ensure that immediate steps were taken to remedy the existing situation. The reply to this memorandum was received, wherein they accepted that the roads had incurred extensive damages. They cited road-cuts made by the optical fibre cable laying companies as one of the major factors for these damages. They agreed to set things right and promised complete repairs within three months.

CAG sent a second reminder in a letter dated 4.2.2002. It highlighted the duty of the Corporation to provide good roads as mentioned in the Chennai City Municipal Corporation



## An elegy for our pavements

As the broad tree-lined pavements of Madras are beginning to diminish drastically and even vanish under the drive to make-over the city into glitzy, car savvy and fly-over-the-top Chennai. Forget the mandatory 10-ft. to 12-ft. (now reduced to

games a la the white rabbit of Alice in Wonderland! As for the beautiful raintrees, once proud sentinels of the city's shady pavements, very few remain, having succumbed to the vagaries of age and weather, maimed by road-widening programmes or root-damaged by cable laying schemes.

On the street where I live, our side of what was once a wide gracious pavement is now a narrow 'tree bed', supporting a few surviving neem and raintrees. The pavement has been hacked into randomly for car parking which is rarely used, while the narrow apology of a pavement behind the car parks is perennially unused where once it reverberated to the joyous shouts and bustle of children walking back from the three schools on our road. Our gung-ho road committee has painted the pavement edges in smart zebra stripes, put up eye-catching signages and even induced the residents to plant foliage running down the length of the outer edge compound walls fronting the street, with a few enthusiastic house-owners vying with each other in taking up extra pavement space to display their prowess at gardening! All very pretty, please, but what about the city's diminishing resources of water to nurture the pavement planting not to mention the shrinking pavement space which forces pedestrians, including the elderly and the children, to walk on the road despite zooming cars, speed-happy cyclists and autos.

I rue the disappearance too of the colourful and bustling pavement life of Chennai. The chik craftswomen with their busily moving looms and their ethereal chiks which brought a touch of magic to grimy pavements, the colourful parrot astrologers, the itinerant bangle-sellers, the street painters and the egrets which took off from pavement

### Preserve pavements for pedestrians

In a letter published in the 'Letters to the Editor' column of The Hindu, N.V.K. Swami has requested the authorities to remove hawkers from the pavements on various roads in Chennai so that they are freely available to their rightful users — the pedestrians.

What is so newsworthy about this letter? The fact that it was published 50 years ago in The Hindu dated March 8, 1953, and reproduced by it on March 8, 2003 in its 'Fifty years ago' column!

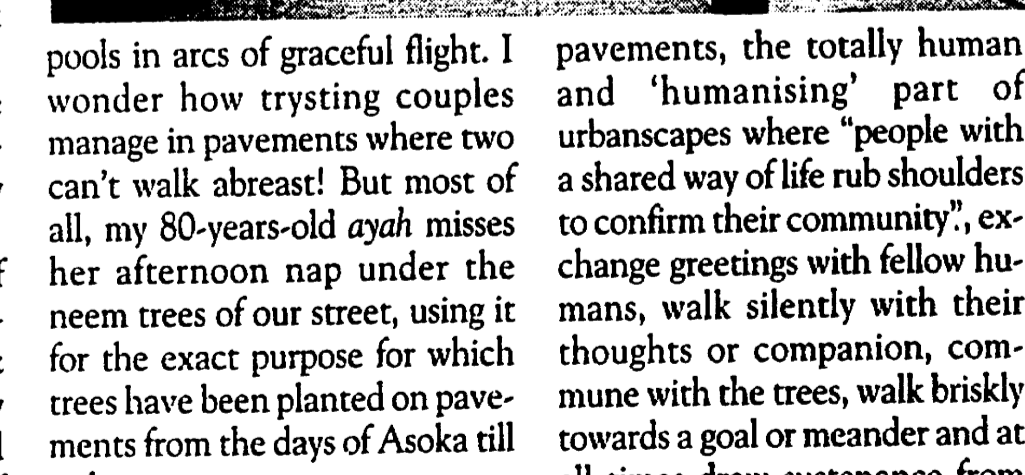
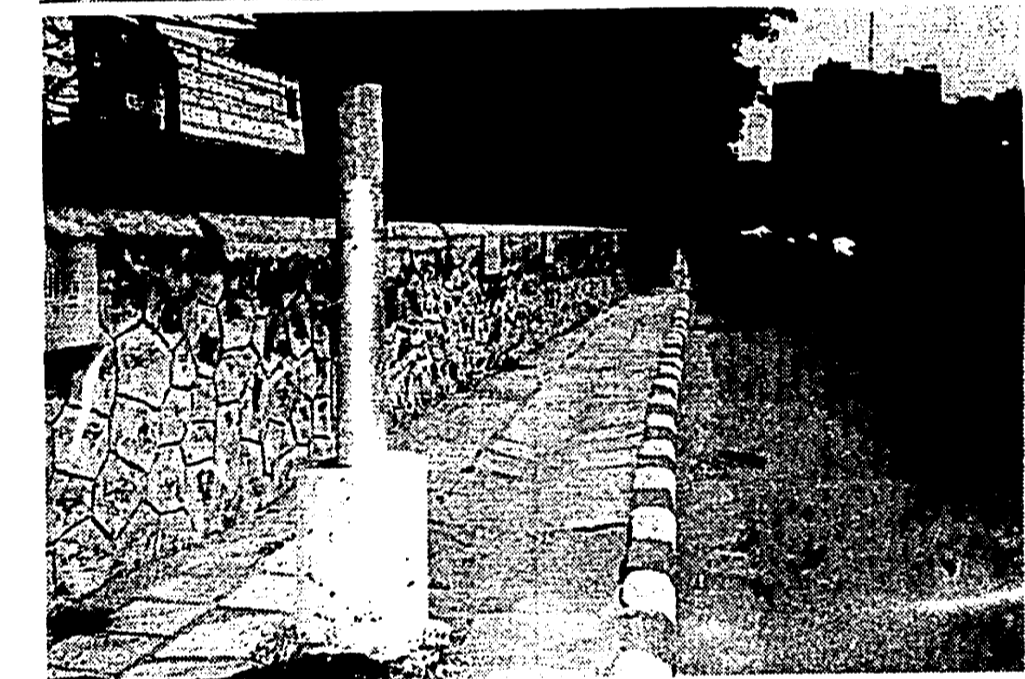
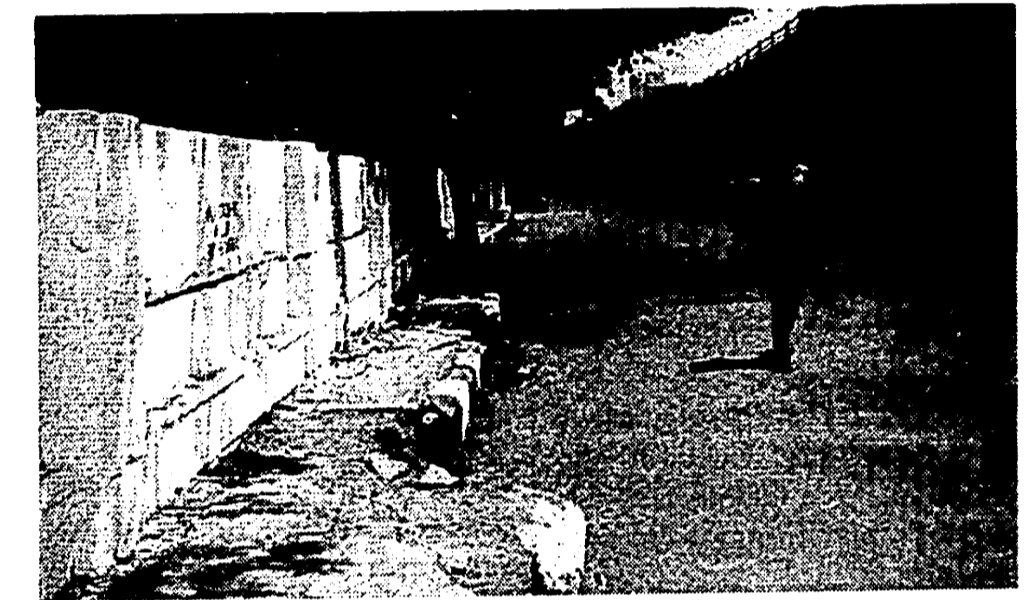
This letter could have been written on March 8, 2003, and may possibly be written even on March 8, 2053.

Some problems of Chennai appear to be insoluble ever! (Courtesy: Anna Nagar Times.)

6-ft.) pavements prescribed by town planners worldwide as absolutely essential for pedestrian comfort and mobility, to make him feel less threatened by the speeding vehicular traffic. Forget too the ideal 80-ft pavements on either side of the road — as in Champs Elysees — meant for urbanites to rub shoulders with each other in "civilised social glue" under spreading canopies of trees. We are in Chennai, remember?

Here newly widened roads literally swallow up entire lengths of pavements or reduce them to narrow strips of ribbons which occasionally play "now you see me, now you don't" disappearing

The two pictures above and the three below clearly show how and why Chennai pavements are a vanishing breed — or, even if they pay lip service to existence, are virtually unusable. The picture top left is a model of what a pavement should be, but, above, the same pavement on Sardar Patel Road has vanished into nothingness thanks to a totally unnecessary flyover. In the three pictures below, not only is the pavement gouged into and left damaged and narrower, or allowed to vanish into nothingness, or been narrowed to less than six feet, but, worse still, encroachments — official and unofficial — have reduced the space to virtual unusableness. (All photographs on this page by R. ESWARRAJ.)



Yes, roads and pavements have to be reinvented to keep pace with moving times and solutions found for congestion. But must it be at the cost of tree-lined

pavements, the totally human and 'humanising' part of urban spaces where "people with a shared way of life rub shoulders to confirm their community", exchange greetings with fellow humans, walk silently with their thoughts or companion, commune with the trees, walk briskly towards a goal or meander and at all times draw sustenance from the vitality and exuberance of the street, its traffic and its moving collage of happenings.

Pushpa Chari

## A Code of Conduct for road maintenance

(Synopsis of the Code of Conduct for public utilities for better road maintenance in Chennai City, 1993)

- Section 1 gives the list of organisations, which have to follow the rules for road excavations and trenching. These organisations are the Corporation of Chennai, C.M.W.S.S Board, Chennai Telephones, TNEB, the Traffic Police, Highways Department and the P.W.D.
- Section 2 states how road cuts are to be executed and mentions that there should be minimum hazard to life, minimum damage to underground assets of other departments. It also stresses that all the programmes must be co-ordinated by a committee.
- Section 3 states that a high-level committee, with representatives of all organisations in Section 1, should be formed and they in turn should submit an annual programme for road cuts.
- Section 4 gives the procedure for getting permission for major road cuts and the time period for the same. It also mentions that permission will not be given within six months of laying a new road. Any service department cutting roads without permission will have to pay a fine of Rs. 1000 per day till the road is restored.
- Section 5 mentions the provisions for emergency road cuts to attend to faults.
- Section 6 mentions the provision for ducts.
- Section 7 states that while digging trenches, separation of pipes from various departments should be at least by 0.3 m. Madras Telephones may however dig the trench to a maximum stretch of 1000m at a time. It also mentions that caution-cum-information boards are mandatory. Non-installation of such notices will entail a fine of Rs. 500 per day. If the trenches are not barricaded, then a fine of Rs. 250 will be levied per day. Haphazard dumping of materials would entail a fine of Rs. 1000 per day.
- Section 8 states that while backfilling the trenches, sea sand should be used to fill them to a minimum depth of 1m and to a maximum depth of 2m. If a service department fails to remove the excavated earth within 6 days, then they will have to pay a charge of Rs. 500 per day and Rs. 1000 in case backfilling and removal of sand are delayed.
- Section 9 states that if authorisation to reinstate disturbed roads is not received by the Zonal Officer of the Corporation concerned within a week of completion of work, then that particular service department is liable for a fine of Rs. 500 per day. In case of any violation, the services laid shall be dismantled and relaid as per the rules.
- Section 10 states that a "revolving fund" to meet the restoration charges of emergency road cuts is to be maintained by the service department with the Corporation of Chennai. The amount of the fund shall be equal to the amount of road restoration bills for three months. In case fines are to be paid by the service department, they would have to be deposited in the Revolving Fund. This would be operated by the Chairman of the High Level Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee. The funds would be for general road maintenance and are to be maintained in a nationalised bank.
- Section 11 states that the monitoring is to be carried out by the High Level Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee to be headed by the Commissioner, Corporation of Chennai, and will be reviewed at quarterly meetings.
- Section 12 states that dispute concerning matters other than the execution of works is to be adjudged by the Special Officer, Corporation of Chennai. — (Courtesy: CAG Reports.)

Act, 1919 and also the need for definite standards for laying roads. There was no reply and subsequent correspondence from CAG also went unanswered. As a final resort, CAG filed a writ petition asking the High Court to direct the Corporation to repair and maintain the city roads and observe the "Code of conduct for public utilities for better road maintenance in Chennai city" formulated in 1993.

These guidelines state that the cutting of roads has to be planned in advance by a high-level co-ordination and monitoring committee consisting of the Commissioner from the Corporation of Chennai, the Engineering Director of CMWSSB, Chief Engineer of T.N.E.B, Deputy General Manager of Chennai Telephones, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Chief Engineer of H.&R.W and the Chief Engineer of P.W.D. The length of roads, duration (of road repairs), caution boards to be displayed along these roads and repairs after completion of work have been mentioned elaborately. The cost of repairs is to be borne by the organisation concerned.

The High Court by its order dated 29.8.2002 ordered that it was imperative that the guidelines be followed according to the "code of conduct" mentioned earlier.

CAG, seeing the state of the roads in 2003, has been left wondering what has been done since that order. (Courtesy: CAG Reports.)





(Current Affairs questions are from the period May 1st to 15th. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Tamil Nadu and Chennai.)

1. Name the train which met with a devastating fire accident killing at least 35 persons on May 15th?
2. Which team set a world record in cricket on May 13th in Antigua?
3. Who is to take over as India's new High Commissioner to Pakistan?
4. In a recent British survey of the 50 best books by female authors, Arundhati Roy's *God of Small Things* was 20th. What was No. 1?
5. How much is Infosys paying out as settlement in the 'sexual harassment' case against its ex-employee Phaneesh Murthy?
6. Name the new Indian air-to-air missile which had its successful first-ever test firing on May 9th.
7. Which global sporting legend is to be the first 'Goodwill Ambassador' for a famous fairy-tale writer's bicentennial celebrations?
8. On which musical father-daughter duo is Dev Anand planning an English film called *Song of Life*?
9. Name Nelson Mandela's trusted lieutenant and one of the most respected anti-Apartheid icons of South Africa who passed away recently.
10. What was India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft christened as on May 4th?

11. Name the new Commissioner of the Chennai Corporation.
12. Which Asian Games champion from Tamil Nadu was recently presented Rs. 20 lakh by the Chief Minister?
13. Name Chennai's oldest surviving benefit fund (all of 133 years old).
14. Name the Tamil Nadu batsman who scored a brilliant century in the second innings, albeit in vain, in the Ranji Trophy final against Mumbai recently.
15. Of which political party is C.P. Radhakrishnan the new State chief?
16. The first non-missionary, non-British financed Hindu education institution in South India has grown many fold today. Its premier institution is on Poonamallee High Road in Chennai. Name it.
17. Name the two private FM radio channels that started in Chennai from May 5th.
18. Which Chennai 'heritage' hotel's previous avatars were the Imperial Hotel and the Albany?
19. Which small town in Erode District is synonymous with a daily-use dairy product?
20. Name the prominent film producer and brother of Maniratnam who committed suicide recently.

(Answers on page 7)

## Deaths a concern at Park

The Guindy Children's Park has had a series of animal deaths over the last one year. Park authorities say that the animals have died due to respiratory diseases.

The first case, which was a common langur, occurred a year ago. Since then a Bengal vulture, a Nilgiri langur, a four-horned antelope and a wild dog pup have died. Officials at the Park say, "The problem is that there are no external signs of the disease. The animals collapse suddenly and die within two days of the first visible symptoms. So what we have done is to give all the animals medicines that will prevent the disease."

In the post-mortems, it was found that in some animals two air sacs were damaged while in others three were damaged.

Wild dog puppies from the Guindy National Park have been shifted to the Vandalur Zoo after five animals died due to respiratory diseases last year. The pups have been quarantined at the Veterinary Hospital in Vandalur and are being treated there.

Guindy Park officials rule out any disease through contaminated water. Air pollution is a more likely cause.

Officials say, "Most of the pollution is due to the heavy traffic on the main roads. The tree cover is inadequate to reduce the effect of pollution." — (Courtesy: *The Word*, student publication of the Asian College of Journalism.)

Siddharth Narrain

## Saving our coastal heritage

A workshop on the *Conservation of Heritage in Coastal Regions*, sponsored by the Vasant Sheth Foundation, was organised in Goa last March by INTACH, to formulate policies covering all aspects of planning, development and conservation for coastal areas. This was the third workshop in the series designed for drawing up recommendations for a National Policy for Heritage Conservation and Management.

The workshop was attended by officers from the Central Government and from the State Governments of Goa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Pondicherry as well as NGOs, activists and architects, and INTACH State Convenors from the coastal regions. Discussions centred on the important recommendations that needed to be made to various authorities.

It was emphasised that great care needed to be taken in planning tourism activities and determining carrying capacity. INTACH recorded its willingness to join hands with Government, local bodies and like-minded NGOs for listing all types of natural, socio-cultural and architectural heritage, representing important historical eras. There is need for creating awareness among people, and publication of information, including internet communication, for a wider appreciation of the issues involved. Awareness is further enhanced by organising heritage walks, cruises and festivals as well as training workshops and seminars. Reuse of heritage buildings by private parties or conversion to heritage hotels for example ensures conservation of the property.

### Recommendations for Conservation of Heritage in Coastal Regions.

#### To Ministry of Environment

- Heritage resources falling within CRZ scope to be declared as part of CRZ 1 in Coastal Zone Management Plan;
- All mangroves and other vegetation with CRZ scope to be protected as Reserved Forests by the Forest Department;
- Guidelines and regulations on the lines of CRZ to be issued for lakes, rivers and other natural water bodies;

- Eco-sensitive zone declarations to be used for the protection of marine life like corals and other flora and fauna in select coastal areas;
- Pollution control measures to be taken up for instances like oil spillage.

#### To Ministry of Culture and Tourism

- A clear policy to be enunciated for ASI collaboration with Trusts, NGOs and the Corporate Sector;
- All maritime, island and coastal forts/historical structures to be declared protected monuments by the ASI/State Departments of Archaeology, without awaiting detailed listings;
- NGOs involved with conservation to be considered for direct funding by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture;
- A National Maritime Museum on the western coast to be set up, and likewise State-sponsored museums to be set up in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala;
- Criteria and guidelines for granting *Heritage City* status to be laid down, with funding and monitoring mechanism set up, as such sites are potentially valuable tourism assets;
- Pondicherry to be declared a *World Heritage City*;
- Concessions on income tax, property tax to be introduced as incentives to conserve heritage sites.

#### To Coastal States

- Crash programmes of listing heritage sites within CRZ scope to be undertaken;
- CRZ regulations to be applied to new constructions/demolition of heritage sites;
- Heritage regulations to be put in place by amending Town Planning Act/local regulations;
- Disaster Management Plans to be formulated for coastal regions;
- Traditional rights of fishermen to be protected;
- Old wreckages, whether under or above water or along coast, to be listed and protected. — (Courtesy: *INTACH's Newsletter*.)

## ... BUT BEST BIG STATE

(Continued from Page 1)

Kerala too has slid to 12th from 11th.

**Law & Order:** Kerala has the best performance in the country, retaining its position over the decade, while Tamil Nadu has improved to 2nd from 3rd. Karnataka has slipped to 7th from 4th while Andhra has improved from 13th to 11th.

**Education:** Given the findings reported in the accompanying story on page 1, Tamil Nadu's 5th position, even if it is up from 6th and is the best among the big States, is a bit of a surprise as is Kerala's fall to 3rd from 2nd. While Goa maintains its top spot, both Karnataka and Andhra have improved to 8th (11) and 13th (15) respectively.

**Agriculture:** Of course, there's no touching Punjab, but Tamil Nadu has done extremely well, jumping to 3rd — the best among the big states — from 6th,

but Andhra's jump is even more impressive, to 4th from 8th, and still better is Karnataka, to 7th from 12th. Kerala is 15th, down from 13th.

**Health:** A big surprise was Tamil Nadu's 7th, even if it held its position and remained the best of the big States. The rankings of the other Southern States are: Kerala 5th (4), Karnataka an improved 8th (10) and Andhra marginally improving at 11th (12).

**Infrastructure:** An excellent performance by Tamil Nadu, the best of the big States, improving to 6th from 10th. A still better improvement is Kerala's 5th from 11th. Karnataka has slipped somewhat on this count to 11th (9) and Andhra remains at 12th.

**Investment scenario:** Though Tamil Nadu is rated together with Delhi as the fastest movers of the decade, moving to 9th from 13th, it is still behind Gujarat 4th (3), Maharashtra

7th (8) and Karnataka 8th (10), among the big States. Andhra has improved to 10th from 12th and Kerala has done very well, moving to 14th (17).

**Consumer Markets:** A big surprise was Tamil Nadu's 10th position, even if it was up from 11th. The State trailed Maharashtra 5th (6) and Gujarat 9th (8), among the big States and Kerala 7th (9). Karnataka slipped to 11th (10) but a big gainer was Andhra 14th (17).

Despite Tamil Nadu's high rating as the State to live and work in, a concern is that of the three Indias — prosperous, striving / middling, and poor — that reviewers of the survey divide the country into, the entire South, except for Pondicherry, is described as striving as middling. The prosperous States are listed as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Pondicherry and Meghalaya. This appears to be based on none of the

facts that southern States' figure amongst the top three under the headings least numbers below poverty level, most healthcare spending, most literate population, highest per capita income and highest State domestic product, except Kerala which has the least illiteracy and Tamil Nadu, which has the third highest State domestic product (Rs.89,000 crore). Significantly, that's about half top-place Maharashtra's and about 85% second place Uttar Pradesh's. More positively, Tamil Nadu's SDP has grown at a faster pace (5.65%) than in the other two States.

While the survey appears to make out a case for small is better, it is worth pondering over why big cannot be better, especially in a State like Tamil Nadu which is sixth in population amongst Big Ten, has a manageable population of 62 million, and the space for it.

## The G.O.M. of Indian Cricket



M.J. Gopalan

On June 6th, he completes 94 (or is it 97?). Cricket annuals, including *Wisden*, have, over the years, recorded his date of birth as June 6, 1909. But close relatives of Morapakam Jaysam Gopalan insist that he was born on this day in 1906. While there may be some debate over whether he is the oldest living Test cricketer, there can be no debate on Gopalan's exalted status as the Grand Old Man of Indian cricket.

Gopalan played in only one Test. Going in at No. 10 against Douglas Jardine's England team at Calcutta in 1933-34, he scored 11 not out and 7 and picked up one wicket for 39 with his medium pacers. On the face of it, then, it would seem that he deserves no more than a footnote in Indian cricket history. But those who saw him in action and others who followed his career closely have no doubt of his greatness.

There are those whose careers should never be measured by figures and Gopalan is one such cricketer — or, should one say, sportsman? For Gopalan's chief claim to greatness is that he is one of that rare breed — a double international. To play for your country in one sport is an honour, but very few have combined talent and hard work assiduously enough to play in two sports. Besides cricket, Gopalan represented India in hockey. In fact, in 1936, he was in a dilemma. He was picked for the tour of England and he had to make a decision whether to go there as a cricketer or go to Berlin as a hockey player, for he was certain to be included in the Indian squad that would defend the gold medal they had won at Amsterdam in 1928 and Los Angeles in 1932. He had already distinguished himself while touring New Zealand in 1935 as a member of Dhyana Chand's team. It was a tough choice and an unenviable one

for Gopalan to make. Ultimately, he chose to go to England. With the benefit of hindsight, it can be said to have been an incorrect decision. Had he gone to Berlin, he would have returned with a gold medal. The tour of England, on the other hand, was an unmitigated disaster on and off the field. India lost two of the three Tests and there were many sordid episodes that marred the tour. Gopalan did well to keep away from the petty politics and, in the limited opportunities he got, performed with quiet efficiency. But he could not break into the Test side and his appearances

• by Partab Ramchand

for India were restricted to just his debut game.

Gopalan represented the Hindus in the Quadrangular and Pentangular tournaments and played for Madras in the Ranji Trophy from the inception of the competition, in 1934-35, to 1951-52. If he was not a legend in Indian cricket, Gopalan was certainly a living legend in Madras. Soft-spoken, modest and unassuming by nature, he took disappointments in his stride. Certainly he deserved many more chances to play for the country, but shrugged off the lack of opportunities philosophically. He had to endure a major disappointment even when he was almost 80. The CBFS in Sharjah announced that Gopalan would be one of the beneficiaries and would receive a purse. At the last moment, he was removed from the list and the purse presented to another cricketer. Gopalan refused to make an issue of this rank injustice, though, coming from a middle class background, he could certainly have done with the money.

Wherever he has stayed in

the city, though Triplicane is the locality most associated with him, Gopalan has continued to attend public functions, his speeches have been short and to the point. Unlike so many of the elderly, he does not ramble about the standard of cricket being better in his day or how cricketers of his time played for the fun of it and for the love of the game. He loves watching one-day cricket, taking a special interest in seeing the young play and has always raved about Sachin Tendulkar's uncommon talent and ability. "My word, how that boy plays", he remarked to me once, unable to conceal his excitement and enthusiasm even when he was 90.

The affection and respect he commanded at the time he quit the first class scene was best seen in the institution of the Gopalan Trophy, an annual fixture between Madras and Ceylon, later Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. From 1953-54, it was a permanent fixture in the first class calendar of Madras and Colombo till the late 70s. Once Sri Lanka achieved Test status, it was played only a few times in the early 80s and then was not played for almost 20 years. Happily, it has been revived during the last couple of years but there is no news of the 2002-03 match.

In 1959, Gopalan became a national selector. He served for four consecutive terms and did his best to recognise talent. A famous victory over the Australians at Kanpur and India's first series triumph over England were notable achievements during his tenure as a selector. Later, he was elected vice-president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, at whose meetings he was not afraid to speak out on matters retarding the progress of the game. A father figure to the young over many generations, from Sunil Gavaskar to Sachin Tendulkar all the Indian stars have treated the tall, though now slightly hunched and silver-haired figure, with great respect.

Gopalan holds the unique record of having bowled the first ball in the Ranji Trophy. This was on November 4, 1934 at Chepauk. In the initial years of the national competition, Gopalan, C.P. Johnstone,

(Continued on Page 8)

## Four others of promise

We present last 4 of talented sports persons benefiting from assistance from the Champions Development Scheme of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu. They are:

**Deepen Chakravarty** is India's youngest International Master with an ELO rating of 2387. Born and brought up in Madurai, Chakravarty began

learning chess when he was not even three years old, thanks to his father Jayakumar, a district-level player who encouraged him. He started participating in tournaments when only five. Chakravarty tasted his first major success at the National Children's Rapid Chess Championship, held in Calicut in 1999. Three years later, he became the Asian Junior Chess Champion at the tournament held in Sri Lanka.

His talent enabled him to successfully compete in categories above his age group and win comfortably. "SDATN has helped me a lot with motivation and regular health check-ups. They sponsored my visit to Greece last year," Chakravarty says. Thanks to the All India Chess Federation, Chakravarty benefits from the coaching provided by Russian Grandmaster Vladimirov. He is also one of the chess prodigies sponsored by WIPRO. As part of the sponsorship contract, WIPRO has provided him with a laptop and the latest software, as well as cash. If Chakravarty continues in the same vein, he may become India's youngest ever Grandmaster.

**MDharanee** was placed fifth in the shooting competition at the Hyderabad National Games. She specialises in the .177 air rifle and .22 rifle categories. Now part of the CDS, Dharanee looks forward to participating in international events. "Most international players use sophisticated weapons, costing upwards of

**G. Shivakumar** came third in the 17th Sub-Junior National Boxing Championship, in the B-5 weight category. He is a student of Government Higher Secondary School, Erukkanchery. Shivakumar came first in his category at the Tamil Nadu State Boxing Meet last year. He lives and trains at the Nehru Stadium.

**Sashi Nair** (Concluded)

Rs. one lakh, exclusive of duty. So far, I have been using an old weapon in one category, but now because I am part of the CDS, SDATN will help me get a new weapon, imported from Germany. Shooting is a sport that is not easy on the pocket. The jacket costs Rs. 30,000 and the shoes Rs. 10,000. SDATN's help will come in very handy for me," she says.

She says she has a few people to thank for helping her get this far in the sport — Sivanti Adityan, Secretary of the Chennai Rifle Club, for getting her an imported weapon earlier, coach AJ Jalaludin and AK Balashanmugham who introduced her to shooting. An MSc student of Applied Psychology in SJET College who wants to take up counselling as a career, Dharanee is least perturbed about having to juggle with study and sport. "It's enough if you spend two hours with your books every day," she remarks confidently.

**S. Kiruba** won the 17th Sub-Junior National Boxing Championship held in Jamshedpur in 2001, in the C-3 weight category. He is a student of the Government Senior Secondary

School, Poonamallee. In 2002, at the Tamil Nadu State Boxing Meet, Kiruba came first in the B-5 weight category. This year, at the Sub-Junior National Boxing Championship in Kolkata, he stood third in the same category. Kiruba lives and trains at the Nehru Stadium.

**G. Shivakumar** came third in the 17th Sub-Junior National

Boxing Championship, in the B-5 weight category. He is a student of Government Higher Secondary

School, Erukkanchery. Shivakumar came first in his category at the Tamil Nadu State Boxing Meet last year. He lives and trains at the Nehru Stadium.

Sashi Nair (Concluded)

## Answers to Quiz

1. Frontier Mail; 2. The biggest successful run-chase ever (418 by West Indies); 3. Shivshankar Menon; 4. Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*; 5. \$ 3 million; 6. Astra; 7. Brazilian footballer Pele; 8. Pt. Ravi Shankar and Norah Jones; 9. Walter Sisulu; 10. Tejas.

11. M.P. Vijayakumar; 12. Rafath Habib, the champion in snooker doubles; 13. Egmor Benefit Fund; 14. Hemanga Badani; 15. BJP; 16. Pachaiyappa College; 17. Suryan and Radio Mirchi; 18. Connemara; 19. Utthukuli; 20. G. Venkateswaran.

# The G.O.M. of Indian Cricket

(Continued from Page 7)

A.G. Ram Singh and C. Ramaswami were the four pillars of Madras cricket. But with his fitness and his enthusiasm for life, Gopalan has outlasted all his famous compatriots and his handshake remains firm as he greets you with a toothy smile.

Writing about Gopalan in the 1960-61 edition of *Indian Cricket*, in the Special Portrait feature, noted journalist N.S. Ramaswami had this to say: "He was the complete cricketer. A rather mechanical fast bowler, he developed into a clever and economical medium pacer. An unsophisticated hitter, he became one of the stylists of the day with the bat. And in the slips he could catch anything that went to him. If he were playing today, his exclusion would be inconceivable."

Old-timers fondly remember three of Gopalan's knocks even today. One was the dashing 98 he made for Madras against Lord Tennyson's team in 1937-38, which paved the way for his inclusion in the Indian team for the fourth 'Test' at Chepauk. The second was his only hundred in first class cricket, in the Ranji Trophy semifinal in 1940-41 against United Provinces. When last man C.R. Rangachari joined him, Gopalan was some distance away from the three-figure mark. But he shielded his partner, who had no pretensions to being a batsman, till he got to 101 and remained unbeaten. The third came eight years later, while leading South Zone against the John Goddard-led West Indian side. In a lost cause, Gopalan stood alone treating the bowling of Goddard, John Trim, Wilfred Ferguson and

Gerry Gomez with scant respect till he was out for 64. So entertaining was his batting that even the West Indians cheered him off the field.

For all his batting exploits, Gopalan will perhaps be remembered more for his bowling. He was unfortunate in being a contemporary of Mohammed Nissar, Amar Singh, Shute Banerjee and Baqa Jilani and so his opportunities for the country were restricted. But whenever he got a chance he made the most of it. When for example Jack Hobbs came to India, while representing the Maharajkumar of Vizianagaram's team in 1930-31, Gopalan got his wicket twice in the game at Madras. Five years later, he was devastating against Jack Ryder's Australian side. In the two innings he had figures of 6 for 23 and 5 for 62. In a Presidency match against the Europeans in 1927 he had a ten-wicket haul. But his best-known feat was against the All-Ceylon team in 1931. Till they came to Madras for their last match, the

tourists had enjoyed an unbeaten record. Gopalan was the architect of the only defeat during the trip. For years, eyewitnesses recalled with excitement his hat-trick, bowling each of his three victims, S.S. Jayawickreme, N.S. Joseph and Schokman. Moreover, with the first ball of the same over, he had bowled Hubert and this meant that Gopalan had taken four wickets in the over. With figures of 6 for 16 and 7 for 57, Gopalan forced the All-Ceylon team to taste their only defeat of the tour.

In a first class career that stretched from 1926 to 1952, Gopalan scored 2916 runs at an average of 24.92 and picked up 194 wickets at 24.20 apiece. In the Ranji Trophy, Gopalan took 69 wickets at 20 apiece and scored 1142 runs at a 26.55 average. But Gopalan the all-rounder, and one of India's few double internationals, should never be measured against statistics alone. He was a cricketer who did all he could to uphold all that is noble about the game.

## Recommended Trees - 8

### TREES SUITABLE FOR LESS CARED, DEGRADED LANDS & SEWAGE FARMS

(Sentimental value, frequently disturbed soil trees which can withstand water shortage)

#### Trees for Burial Grounds

*Pisonia alba* (Tree Lettuce)  
*Plumeria alba* (Frangipani)  
*Millingtonia Hortense* (Indian Cork Tree)  
*Pithecolobium dulce* (Madras Thorn)  
*Tamarindus indica* (Tamarind)

#### Trees for Degraded Lands

(Self perpetuating, add humus to soil & tolerate extremes of water shortage)

*Albizia lebbek* (Siris Tree)  
*Acacia nilotica* (Babool)  
*Acacia toritilis*  
*Melia azadirach* (Persian Lilac)  
*Leucena leucocephala* (Subabul)  
*Ziziphus jujuba* (Jujube)  
*Acacia Planifrons* (Kodaivel)  
*Erythrina Indica* (Kalyana Murungai)  
*Bavlinia Variiegata* (Bauhinia)  
*Thevitia nerifolia* (Yellow Oleander)

#### Trees for Sewage Farms

*Eucalypts robusta* (Swamp Mahagoni)  
*Tectona grandis* (Teak)  
*Alstonia Scholaris* (Devil's Tree)  
*Pithecolobium dulce* (Madras Thorn)  
*Feronia elephantanum* (Wood Apple)

G. Dattatri, K. Hariharan and Prof. S. Dayanandan

(Concluded)

## THE BEST NON-TECHNICAL COLLEGE

(Continued from Page 1)

riculum are perceived as being excellent. Its unique curriculum stipulates that English, Personality Development, Heritage, World Religions and Social Analysis are taught to ALL students in ALL courses. Basic inter-disciplinary programmes like Arts-for-Science and Science-for-Arts are also taught. And all students have to put in as community service in their second year 60 hours in Corporation schools or slums.

**MCC:** Every department has projects funded by the UGC, Department of Science

and Technology, and foreign agencies. Students also have to do community service, providing healthcare and vocational training in several villages the College has adopted.

**Presidency:** A factory of the best scientific minds, it also has been the prime supplier for the civil services and politics. Offers degrees in English and Tamil mediums. The College receives a considerable amount by way of UGC grants. It has turned out 87 PhDs.

**Stella Maris:** Best known for its arts courses, infrastructure and interaction between students and faculty.

**Ethiraj:** All-round development is the aim. Offers students a number of extracurricular activities.

**Queen Mary's:** Rare student grit displayed when Government wanted to relocate the College and use the present campus for a new Secretariat.

**CMC, Vellore:** It prides itself on turning out 'responsible' doctors, who are trained to appreciate that patient care goes beyond medical treatment.

**Madras Medical:** A pioneer in open-heart and neurosurgery, this old college continues to charm.

**IIT Madras:** The country's most powerful computer system with a wide range of applications has been installed here.

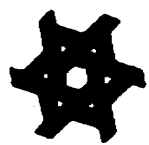
**Anna:** Collaborations with foreign varsities provide students immense opportunities for research and development.

**REC, Tiruchi:** Prefers interactive learning using audio-visual methods. Its Centre for Energy and Environmental Science and Technology does pathbreaking research and consultancy.

**Law:** Has a chair created by the Union HRD Ministry.

Sport on Page 7

Madras Musings is supported as a public service by the following organisations:



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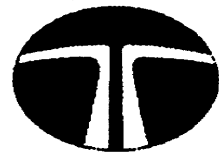
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